No sooner had the old Emperor turned his back on Rome than a swing of the pendulum in Central and Southern Italy restored almost the conditions of 1130. Robert of Capua foresaw it, and strove to secure aid from Genoa and Pisa. Rainulf attempted a *coup-de-main* upon Benevento. He summoned the exiled Rolpoto to his side, and the Count and republican chief together appeared with 1000 horse and 20,000 foot, the forces of the absent Prince of Capua, before La Pelosa, the castle of Ugo the Infant, who held a small force of marauders together there in Roger's name. The castle fell; Cardinal Crescentius, who was again in possession of Benevento after several turns of fortune, at such serious news sent off for troops to the King. Norman horse soon appeared, and acting on orders destroyed all the vines in the neighbourhood of the city. The inhabitants had every reason to curse their King and them; not even Nero, the cruellest of all pagan Europe, had ever inflicted such slaughter and misery on Christians.[1] Rainulf and Rolpoto, however, were at hand, and in October the communal leader was master of the city and Crescentius was once more expelled. The warlike deputy of Anacletus made

an armed attempt to seize the city which was repulsed, but his partisans inside the walls plotted to murder Rolpoto. At the end of November about St. Andrew's Day a counterplot of the communal party broke out; Rolpoto, returning

"Falco, anno 1133.